

Building the Underground Railroad Tour

Directions: The prompts in this packet will guide your thinking as you tour the exhibits. Record your answers to the prompts as you explore.

ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE and the MIDDLE PASSAGE

2nd floor | Mural

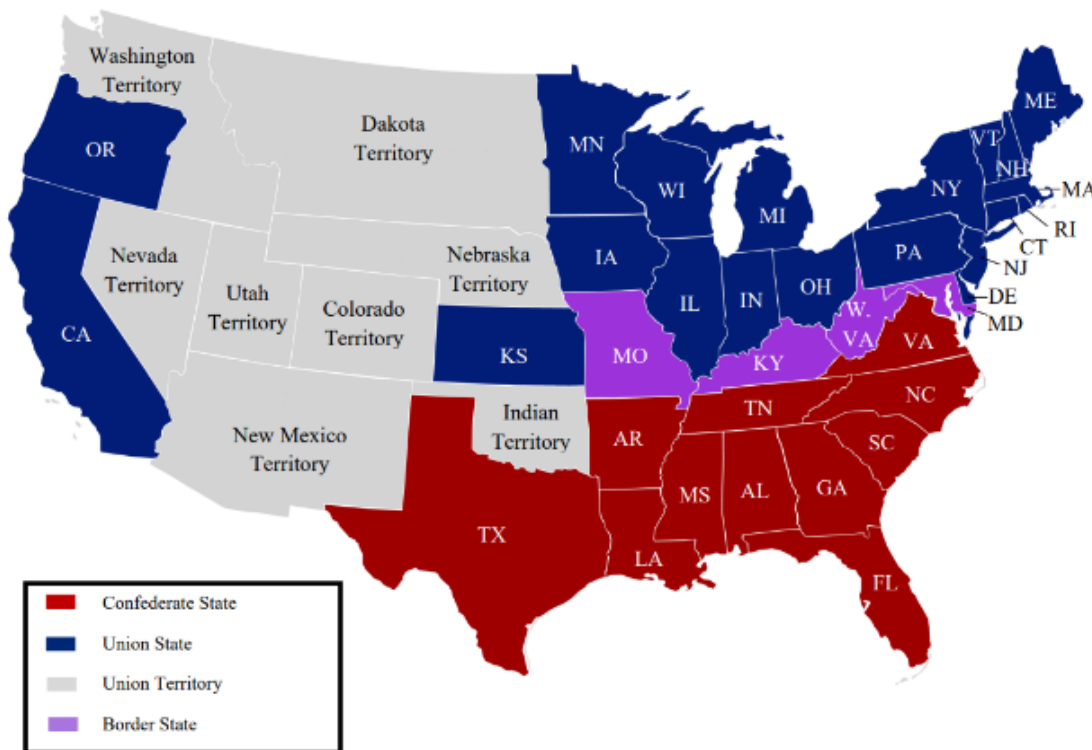
- Do you agree with Mr. Feeling’s words about understanding our painful past?



GEOGRAPHY and ECONOMICS of the INTERNAL SLAVE TRADE

2nd floor | Internal Slave Trade

Civil War States



www.PrintableWorldMap.net

Was Kentucky a free state or a slave state?

Was Ohio A free state of a slave state?

Why did the U.S. stop importing enslaved persons from outside of the U.S.?

What was the Internal Slave Trade?

What is a forced migration?

Cincinnati Connections

How did the Ohio River help the economy during the 1800s?

What was Cincinnati's role in the Internal Slave Trade?

Why do you think many abolitionists decided to promote their cause in Cincinnati?



Buying and Selling People

What happened at slave auctions? Describe what you might observe.



Why wouldn't slave owners want enslaved persons to establish families and households that stayed together?

Cincinnati Connections and Economic Impact

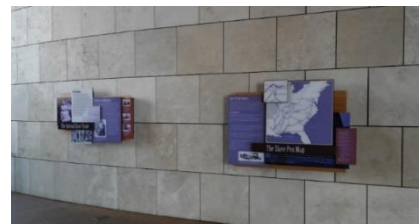
How did white businessmen who didn't own slaves, profit from slave labor?



How did white businessmen profit from the mistreatment of the free Black population?

Slave Pen Map

Using the Slave Pen Map, describe geographic significance of the Anderson slave pen.



How did geography (rivers, landscapes, and climate) shape the movement and location of slaves in the U.S.?

2nd floor | Slave Pen

Why was the demand for cotton so high?



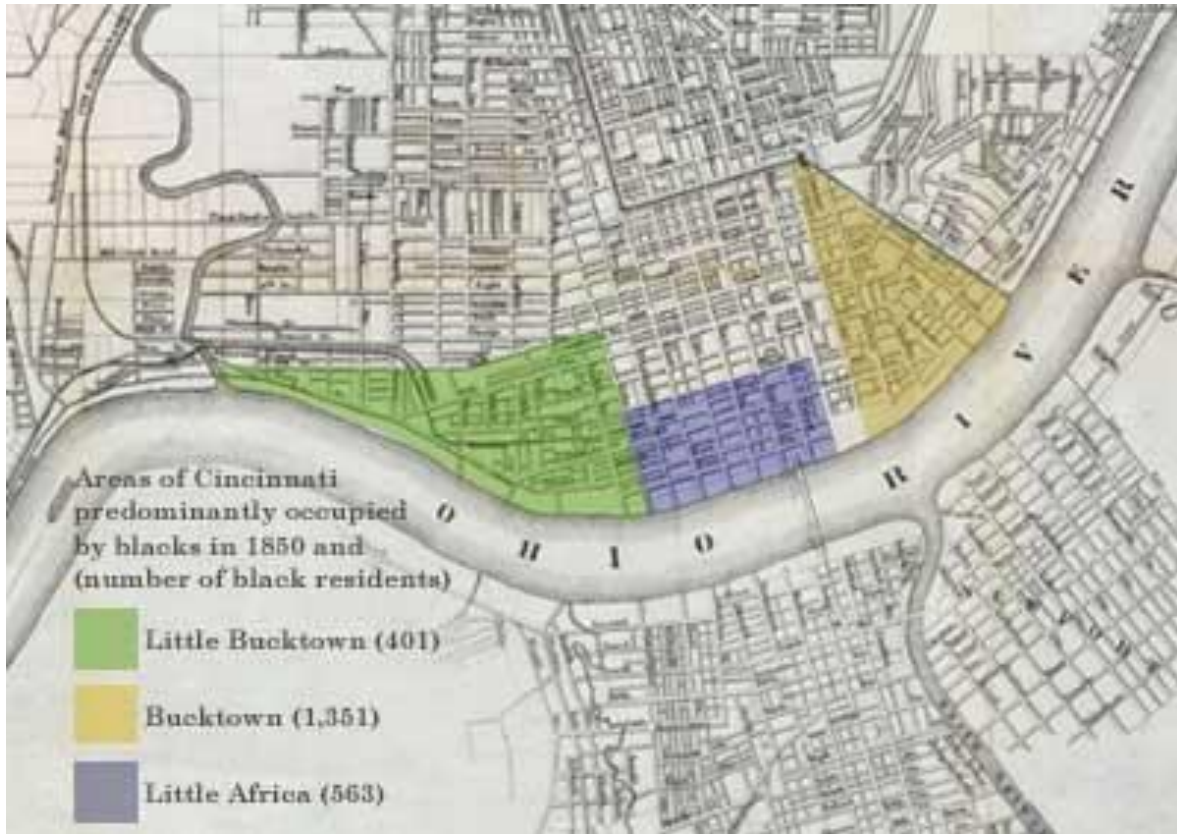
2nd floor | Window: Cincinnati and Slavery

The Ohio River was a border between free and slave states. Is the Ohio River part of Kentucky or Ohio?

Were freedom seekers legally free in free states? Why?

Where did they have to go to be legally free? Code name "Promised Land."

Why is the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center located on this spot?



The UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

2nd floor | **Escape! Freedom Seekers and the Underground Railroad**

Why was the Underground Railroad *spontaneous*?



Why did it rely on *quick thinking* and *gutsy actions*?



When was the Underground Railroad in use?

How was the Underground Railroad similar to and different from an actual railroad?

| Similar | Different |
|---------|-----------|
| | |

Film: Midnight Decision.

Afterwards, follow Caleb’s journey in the exhibit using an interactive display station.

What are 3 facts you learned about the Underground Railroad following his journey?

Characters:
Caleb: son/brother
Eula: mother
Violet: daughter/sister
Henry: conductor

Timeline

View the 3 timelines on the wall. Identify an interesting event or fact from the following decades:

| | Interesting event or fact |
|-------|---------------------------|
| 1830s | |
| 1840s | |
| 1850s | |



Hard Traveling



What were the dangers along the Underground Railroad?

How did freedom seekers know where to go?

Why were passes a big obstacle?

Ask your adult: Where did freedom seekers hide?

Ask your adult: How did freedom seekers use disguises and pretending?

Freedom Seekers

Ask your adult for your assigned freedom seeker. Highlight and annotate the text. Identify two important facts and one question you have about your freedom seeker.

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Freedom Seeker's name | |
| Interesting fact 1 | |
| Interesting fact 2 | |
| Your question | |

Conductors

Ask your adult for your assigned conductor. Find the conductor in the center display. Identify two important facts and one question you have about your first conductor.

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Conductor's name | |
| Interesting fact 1 | |
| Interesting fact 2 | |
| Your question | |

Explore the exhibit and list the conductors with ties to Cincinnati.

Some People Went Further than Talking and Writing Against Slavery

What were safehouses?

What did conductors do?

What did agents do?

What did stationmasters do?

Why was this work dangerous for the helpers?

Secret Passwords and Codes

List at least 2 ways that conductors and freedom seekers secretly communicated.



Fighting Back: Slave Resistance

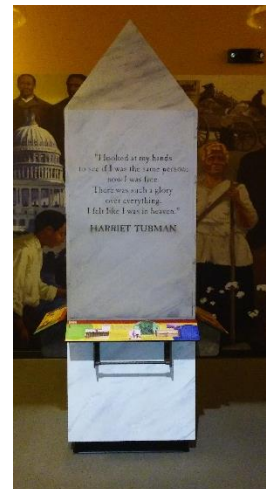
List at least 2 ways the enslaved fought against their enslavement.



Beyond Freedom

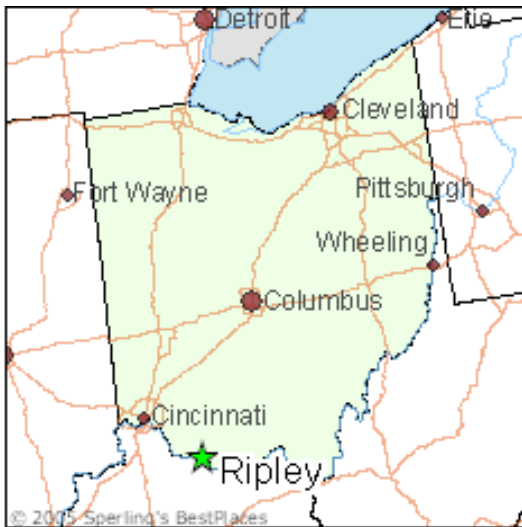
Read and listen to the stories of these characters and record information you learn about the Underground Railroad, or life for African Americans during and after the Civil War.

| | What you learned |
|--------|------------------|
| Caleb | |
| Eula | |
| Henry | |
| Violet | |



REVERAND JOHN RANKIN: CONDUCTOR

2nd floor | Film: Brothers of the Borderland



SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

3rd floor terrace
| Freedom's
Eternal Flame



- How does learning about the Underground Railroad help us promote social justice for all?

- How did Rev. John Rankin and his family demonstrate courage, cooperation, and perseverance?
-

Vocabulary | Building the Underground Railroad Tour

Abolitionists – Historically: a person who favored the abolition, or end, of the institution of slavery. Today: a person who favors the abolition of any law or practice deemed harmful to society. Abolitionists are **anti-slavery**.

Allies – people or nations united by a common cause that support one another

Atlantic Slave Trade – or **transatlantic slave trade**, involved the transportation by slave traders of various enslaved African people, mainly to the Americas. The slave trade regularly used the triangular trade route and its Middle Passage and existed from the 16th to the 19th centuries.

Chattel- portable personal property. **Chattel slavery** equated human beings with livestock, furniture, and any other portable personal property. Chattel could be inherited, sold, or transferred without permission.

Conductors - Underground Railroad conductors were free individuals who helped freedom seekers traveling along the Underground Railroad. Conductors helped freedom seekers by providing them with safe passage to and from stations. If a conductor was caught helping free the enslaved, they would be fined, imprisoned, branded, or even hanged.

Cooperation - working or acting together for a common purpose or benefit

Courage - ability to do something that you know is difficult or dangerous.

Economics - the study of how society uses its limited resources. Economics is a social science that deals with the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services

Enslaved Person - This term is used in place of *slave*. It more accurately describes someone who was forced to perform labor or services against their will under threat of physical mistreatment, separation from family or loved ones, or death.

Enslaved person emphasizes the person. *Slave* emphasizes the condition forced upon them. The term *enslaved person* focuses attention on the person while also recognizing that the person was forcibly placed into the condition of slavery by another person or group.

Forced migration – the movement of people made to leave a place due to forces outside of their control.

Freedom seeker – an enslaved person who takes action to obtain freedom from slavery.

The term *freedom seeker* is favored over the *fugitive*, *runaway*, and *escapee*. These labels were created by slave-holding society and some white abolitionists and portrayed freedom seekers as illegal and law breakers. Such labels also belittled African American efforts toward freedom, making African Americans appear incapable of strategic planning and heroics.

Geography - the study of places and the relationships between people and their environments

Internal Slave Trade – after the Atlantic slave trade was abolished in the U.S. in 1808, slave owners in the upper south found it profitable to sell slaves to new plantations in the lower south. This **domestic slave trade** relocated slaves across the south using land and water routes.

Middle Passage - the forced voyage of enslaved Africans across the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas

Modern slavery - refers to situations of exploitation in which a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception, or abuse of power.

Perseverance - continued effort to do or achieve something, even when this is difficult or takes a long time

Plantations - The difference between Farm and Plantation is that a farm is a relatively smaller piece of land that is used to grow either commercial crops or food for the farmer's family, and livestock is typically kept. A plantation is a large farm used only for producing commercial crops. Unlike farms, on which a variety of crops can be grown, a plantation generally grows only one crop. This crop is then sold in the market for monetary gains. A plantation may also include housing for the owner and labor working there.

Slavery – a condition in which a person is owned by another person.

Underground – secret, not operating in the open